

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01210 121556Z
ACTION ICA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0413

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EINV, SGEN, SOPN, EI
SUBJECT: EXAMPLES OF GOOD CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP: IRELAND

REF: STATE 51579

1. LOCAL US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS IN RECENT WEEKS DECIDED TO UNDERTAKE MAJOR REVIEW OF ISSUE OF GOOD CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP BY US FIRMS IN IRELAND. PROJECT INCLUDES SURVEY OF EFFORTS TO DATE IN THIS AREA AND EXAMINATION OF POSSIBLE MEASURES WHICH CHAMBER MIGHT TAKE TO FOSTER GREATER AWARENESS OF AND INTEREST IN COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS BY ITS MEMBERS. A SERIOUS DISRUPTION OF TELEPHONE SERVICE BY STRIKE ACTION HAS HAMPERED DATA COLLECTION FOR THE SURVEY OF CURRENT ACTIVITIES. RESPONSES TO A QUESTIONNAIRE ON THIS SUBJECT RECENTLY MAILED BY CHAMBER TO MEMBERS HAVE JUST STARTED TO ARRIVE IN DUBLIN.

2. IT IS CLEAR FROM PRELIMINARY DATA THAT A NUMBER OF US OWNED FIRMS HAVE MADE A MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIAL NEEDS OF THE IRISH COMMUNITIES IN WHICH THEY OPERATE. A BUSINESS MACHINE COMPANY, FOR EXAMPLE, DONATED (AND INSTALLED) 120,000 DOLLARS WORTH OF EQUIPMENT TO A LOCAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL. A PETROLEUM PRODUCT DISTRIBUTION FIRM HAS ESTABLISHED A SIGNIFICANT

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ON-GOING FUND TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO WORTHWHILE CAUSES. AN ELECTRIC COMPONENTS OPERATION HAS ESTABLISHED A FAIRLY WIDE-SPREAD AND VERY POSITIVE REPUTATION FOR ITS INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY PROGRAMS IN THE SMALL (BY US STANDARDS) TOWN IN WHICH IT IS LOCATED. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER OF ANOTHER ELECTRONICS FIRM IN THE RELATIVELY UNDERDEVELOPED WEST OF IRELAND IS A

LEADING FIGURE IN THE EFFORT TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH
BY ATTRACTING FOREIGN INVESTMENT TO IRELAND.

3. EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT INFORMATION ABOVE IS THIN AND
DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A DEFINITIVE RESPONSE TO REFTEL,
BUT DETAILS WHICH MIGHT MAKE THIS INFORMATION USEFUL
TO PROJECT OUTLINED IN REFTEL WILL NOT BE AVAIL-
ABLE UNTIL WELL AFTER THE DEPARTMENT'S DEADLINE.
PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF LOCAL US CHAMBER WILL BE IN
WASHINGTON FOR NATIONAL CHAMBER CONVENTION APRIL 29 -
MAY 5, AND HOPE TO HAVE ADDITIONAL DETAILS TO REPORT
THROUGH NATIONAL CHAMBER AT THAT TIME. RENDAHL

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